REMARKS

Prior to this Reply, Claims 1, 4-33, 36, 39-43 and 46 were pending. Through this Reply, Claims 1, 4, 8, 12, 15, 17, 22, 25, 26, 30-32, 36 and 40 have been amended. Furthermore, Claim 33 has been cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained therein. In addition, Claims 47-52 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1, 4-32, 36, 39-43 and 46-52 are now at issue in the present case.

I. Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4-6, 11-14, 18-26, 29, 33, 36 and 39-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,831,781 to Okamura (hereinafter "Okamura '781") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,440 to Shu (hereinafter "Shu"). Furthermore, the Examiner rejected Claims 7, 8, 15-17 and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamura '781 as modified by Shu (as applied to Claim 3), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,808,825 to Okamura (hereinafter "Okamura '825"). In addition, the Examiner rejected Claims 9 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamura '781 as modified by Shu (as applied to Claim 6), further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,835,757 to Abiko (hereinafter "Abiko"). Also, the Examiner rejected Claims 10 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamura '781 as modified by Shu (as applied to Claim 6), further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,275,029 to Schaff (hereinafter "Schaff"). Finally, the Examiner rejected Claim 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamura '781 as modified by Shu (as applied to Claim 5), further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,918,001 to Ueno (hereinafter "Ueno"). It should be observed that Okamura '781 was used as a primary reference in rejecting all of the claims.

In response to the rejections, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 36, so that such claims include the following language: "writing the block of data onto the disk surface in a data sector associated with the AGC field in the first of said plurality of zones before the disk surface completes one revolution after measuring the measured amplitude regardless of whether the measured amplitude is within the predetermined tolerance; and, reading the block of data written onto the disk surface after the disk surface completes the one revolution and before the disk surface completes two revolutions after measuring the measured amplitude and performing a write verification on the block of data read from the disk surface if the measured amplitude is outside of the predetermined tolerance."

Thus, Claims 1 and 36 require writing the block of data in the data sector associated with the AGC field (1) before the disk surface completes one revolution after measuring the amplitude of the AGC field, and (2) regardless of whether the measured amplitude is within the predetermined tolerance. That is, the amplitude of the AGC field is measured and the data block is written in the associated data sector during the same revolution of the disk surface.

Furthermore, Claims 1 and 36 require that if the measured amplitude is outside of the predetermined tolerance then performing the steps of (1) reading the block of data written onto the disk surface (a) after the disk surface completes the one revolution and (b) before the disk surface completes two revolutions after measuring the measured amplitude, and (2) performing a write verification on the block of data read from the disk surface. That is, if the measured amplitude is outside the predetermined tolerance then the data block is read during the next revolution of the disk surface and a write verification on the read data block is performed.

Support for such limitation can be found, at least, in Fig. 6 and on page 10, line 16 to page 11, line 11 of the present application. Applicants submit that Okamura '781 does not disclose the above-quoted limitation.

More specifically, Okamura '781 does not permit writing the data to the disk surface during the disk revolution in which CV is measured and then, if the level value CV is outside of the allowable range, reading the data during the next disk revolution for a write verification. Instead, Okamura '781 determines that a write error has or will occur if the level value CV is outside of the allowable range, and automatically performs a write inhibit or sends an abnormality alarm to the host computer. Thus, Okamura '781 uses the level value CV as a write fault detect rather than a trigger for a write fault detect operation that reads the data block.

Applicants believe that the other cited references fail to provide the missing limitation. Therefore, Applicants believe that Claims 1 and 36 (and the claims that depend therefrom) are also patentably distinguishable from all of the cited references.

The Examiner sustains the rejection based on Okamura '781 "since the disclosure on column 8, lines 39-47 shows a method of retrying a write operation upon determining that amplitude is beyond a predetermined tolerance. Since what is being executed by the method disclosed in Okamura is a **retry** write operation, a block of data has already been written onto the disk surface and it is therefore considered that a data block is written onto the disk surface regardless of whether the measured amplitude is within the predetermined tolerance" (Office Action on page 6).

Applicants respectfully submit that since Claims 1 and 36 recite "writing the block of data onto the disk surface in a data sector associated with the AGC field . . . before the disk surface completes one revolution after measuring the measured amplitude [of the AGC field]"

this write operation cannot be a retry operation. Instead, this write operation writes the data block on the first pass.

II. Additional Claim Fees

In determining whether additional claim fees are due, reference is made to the Fee Calculation Table (below).

Fee Calculation Table

	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest Number Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Additional Fee
Total (37 CFR 1.16(c))	43	Minus	45	= 0	x $50 =	$ 0.00
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(b))	2	Minus	3	= 0	x $200=	$ 0.00

As set forth in the Fee Calculation Table (above), Applicants previously paid claim fees for forty-five (45) total claims and for three (3) independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants believe that no other fees are due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2198 for any fee deficiencies associated with filing this paper.

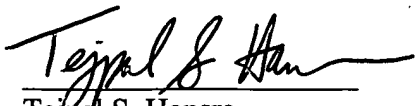
III. Conclusion

It is believed the above comments establish patentability. Applicants do not necessarily accede to the assertions and statements in the Office Action, whether or not expressly addressed.

Applicants believe that the application appears to be in form for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number regarding any matters relating to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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